

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /022 W

----- 123686

R 161845Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECNAV

CNO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8299

CINCLANTFLT

COMTHREE

USDAO CARACAS

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 2323

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, TD, US

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL NAVAL REVIEW

1. SECNAV INVITATION DELIVERED SEPT 8 TO COMMANDER MERVYN WILLIAMS, COMMANDING OFFICER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO COAST GUARD.

2. COMMANDER OF T&T DEFENSE FORCE, BRIGADIER SERRETTE, ON SEPT 16 INFORMED ME THAT T&T DEFENSE FORCE VERY INTERESTED IN HAVING ONE OF THE COAST GUARD'S 103-FOOT FAST PATROL BOATS REPRESENT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT INTERNATIONAL NAVAL REVIEW IN HONOR OF U.S. BICENTENNIAL. DUE ESPECIALLY TO FACT THAT THIS IS ELECTION YEAR IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, THUS COMPOUNDING USUAL DELAYS IN OBTAINING MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE APPROVAL OF MILITARY PROPOSALS, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE IMMEDIATELY, HOWEVER, TO STATE FIRMLY WHETHER THE GOTT WILL BE REPRESENTED WITH A SHIP. WHEN DECISION OBTAINED, USG WILL BE INFORMED.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN BUDGETARY AND OTHER RESTRAINTS IN THIS SMALL NATION, BELIEVE ODDS LESS THAN EVEN THAT T&T COAST GUARD WILL SEND SHIP TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL NAVAL REVIEW JULY 4. HOWEVER, BOTH COAST

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GUARD AND DEFENSE FORCE KEENLY INTERESTED AND APPRECIATIVE

OF INVITATION. SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT T&T PARTICIPATION
BE LISTED AS TENTATIVE AT THIS TIME, WITH CONFIRMATION
TO FOLLOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT PROBABLY NOT FOR SOME
WEEKS AT BEST. MEANWHILE, WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED
OF DEVELOPING PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVAL REVIEW
AND OPERATION SAIL, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS ENVISAGED
FOR OFFICIAL NAVAL DELEGATIONS WITHOUT A SHIP IN CASE
GOTT SHOULD CONCLUDE THAT IT CAN ONLY SEND COAST GUARD
COMMANDER OR OTHER OFFICERS.
RICH

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